

# EXPLOSIONS ROCK BRICK PLANT

## Place Damage At \$15,000

Fog as thick as pea soup hampered efforts to battle a blaze in the maintenance shop of the Higgins Brick Co., 2200 W. 174th St., early yesterday, and the building was a total loss, with damage of more than \$15,000, according to Torrance Firemen.

Although the building was not visible from the street, the blaze apparently was in progress for some time before it was discovered by a neighbor, who heard the crackling of the flames.

**Roof Collapses**  
As firemen arrived shortly after 11 Tuesday, the roof of the building collapsed. Inside, there were exploding oxygen cylinders and oil drums, and a gas pump, enveloped by flames, spewed gas into the inferno.

In the fog, firefighters had difficulty locating the hydrants and battled the flames until about 4 a.m. Destroyed in the flames were a fork lift, wheels, tires, auto parts, welding equipment, a number of sacks of cement, and other material. The cause of the fire in the 35 by 65 foot tin and wood frame building was undetermined, although it apparently started in the south part of the structure.

**Traffic Snarled**  
Traffic on 174th St. was snarled badly, as four police cars directed traffic in the heavy fog. Fire lines were spread across the highway.

In other action the firemen extinguished a fire in a barn full of baled hay at 17900 Yukon Ave., Tuesday, a blaze in a huge fertilizer pile at 22931 Hawthorne Ave., Sunday. They also put out a blaze on a power pole in back of 1720 Andro Ave.

Firefighters answered Sunday calls to 1215 Portola, where some tar in a roofing job caught fire, but caused little damage, and to the Ozark Barbecue, 3124 Pacific Coast Hwy., where sparks from the barbecue chimney apparently set the roof ablaze. The fire was out on arrival.

**NIKE OPEN HOUSE SET**  
The public is invited to see the Army's Nike air defense missile site at Torrance Saturday, according to Capt. Daniel T. Mahoney, the site commander.

The Torrance site will be open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Regular tours of the site and demonstrations of the Nike missile system will be conducted by the Army missilemen stationed at the installation.

The Nike site is located adjacent the Torrance Municipal Airport on Crenshaw Blvd.

## Brewer Wins Official GOP Endorsement

Tom Brewer, Torrance insurance man, has received the endorsement by the Republican fact finding committee, as the GOP candidate for 68th District assemblyman.

The committee met Jan. 27 at the Hacienda Hotel in San Pedro to consider candidates for the post. Brewer made an unsuccessful bid for the assemblyman's post at the last general election.

At present, the local candidate is a member of the State Republican Central Committee, the Los Angeles County Central Committee, and is executive vice president of the 68th Republican Assembly.

He is a member of the County Republican Speakers' Bureau and serves on the inter-city highway committee.

A graduate of Columbia University, he is an active member of Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

## Reservations For Banquet Near Sellout

A record crowd is expected at the annual banquet for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce scheduled for Feb. 25.

Chairman Jack Phillips said that a sellout is assured for the civic banquet which will be highlighted by an address by J. Rogers Deas of the American Can Co. Deas is coming from New York for the meeting.

Other highlights will be installation of new officers and presentation of awards to Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" for 1957, and certificates of appreciation to 14 service club presidents.

An "Old Mexico" theme is planned in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce "Friendship Tour" to Mexico.

Reservations may be secured by calling the Chamber office.

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**BLAST SCENE . . .** Officials of Higgins Brick Co. (left, center) in north Torrance inspect remains of company shops which were razed by fire and exploding fuel and chemical tanks early yesterday. Firemen battled through

the night in dense fog in an effort to subdue the stubborn conflagration. Torrance and Gardena police sent a maximum number of units into the area to handle the resulting traffic snarl on the busy highway. (Herald Photo)

## A Penny for your Thoughts

As the argument continued in Sacramento, The HERALD'S inquiring photographer asked: "Do you think that California's 55-mile-per-hour speed limit is reasonable, or should it be raised as suggested recently?"

Chester Tubbs, 17040 Daphne Ave., cake salesman:

"I think it should be about 65 miles per hour. The way cars are made today, going that fast would be all right. The highways are built for speed."

Kathryn Jaeger, 2008 W. 231st St., waitress:

"It seems to me that it's about right as it is now. If people go much faster than that, it would be too dangerous and more people would be killed."

Robert Maher, Brighton Hotel, machinist:

"It's very reasonable right now. There's no reason for anybody to go faster. There would be more accidents if it were higher. The present speed will get you there in plenty of time."

Mrs. Albert R. Barney, 25107 Andro Ave., housewife:

"The speed limit should be raised. In the East, the speed limits are higher. I think that traffic would move better if the limit were more than 55."

Tom Spellman, Dominguez, carpenter:

"The speed limit probably should be fast enough right now. Of course, the speed depends on the road, traffic, and the weather. I come from Oregon, where you can go as fast as you want if the speed is reasonable."

Patricia Saul, 22106 Linda Dr., secretary:

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## Election Petitions Go to 13

A total of 13 nominating petitions needed to place candidates on the April 8 city ballot have been issued during the first week of the nominating period, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett reported yesterday.

Some of those taking petitions have indicated that they are seeking a particular office, while others have not, Bartlett said. He emphasized that the person taking out the petition is not necessarily a candidate.

Petitions issued up through yesterday went to:

Beverly Whitney, 1804 Arlington.

Thirvin Fleetwood, 3637 W. 182nd St.

Harriet V. Leech, 1630 Amapola.

Richard B. Wilson, 109 Calle de Arboles.

Joseph M. Doss, 1415 Post Ave.

Albert W. Hinz, 4733 Paseo de Las Tortugas.

Sol Mann, 634 Paseo de la Playa.

Willys G. Blount, 1444 El Prado.

Albert Isen, 1504 Engracia.

Roger P. Hogue, 4630 Toucan.

Virgil Hancock, 3531 Madison Court.

John Mulvihill, 3765 W. 171st St.

John A. Beasley, 24240 Ocean Ave.

Mrs. Leech, present city treasurer, is seeking re-election to that post. Hinz announced that he would seek a council post, and Isen will seek election as mayor.

None of the nominating papers had been filed by late yesterday. Deadline for filing is 12 noon, Feb. 13.

In making his announcement for one of the seats on the new seven-man council, Hinz said he believed a councilman should be "a representative of the people, expressing the citizens' desires in city government, and not a dictatorial individual whose only interest is that of prestige or office."

**Claims Independence**  
He emphasized that he was not allied to any individual now in office or any candidate or group.

Hinz is director of industrial relations for Harvey Aluminum Co., whose plant employs a large number of Torrance residents. It is located just outside of the city limits in Los Angeles.

Hinz was born and raised in this area and has been active in a large number of service and charitable organizations, including the Lions Club, Red Cross, Community Chest, and is the 1957 winner of the American Legion National Award for contributing the most to hiring of handicapped persons.

## MRS. BISOU WILL HEAD BOND DRIVE

The drive to obtain signatures for placing a \$3,000,000 bond issue for parks and recreation on the April ballot moved ahead this week, with the appointment of Mrs. Eva Bisou as chairman of the drive.

Named at a meeting Monday, Mrs. Bisou said that 80 to 100 petitions now are in circulation. Some 2500 names must be obtained to put the measure on the ballot. Petitions must be filed and certified by the third week in February in order for the measure to be ready for the election.

The petition will put virtually the same park and recreation issue on the ballot which failed by a small margin last October.

Another meeting of the petition circulators will be held Monday night in the employees' lounge of the City Hall.

## Installation Set Tonight By Lomitans

Dr. Warren Low and other new officers of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce will be installed at a dinner to be held tonight at the Wayfarers' Restaurant, 2230 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita. Installing officer and speaker will be Supervisor Burton Chace.

Werner H. Benson, retiring Chamber president, will be master of ceremonies. Also present will be Herbert R. Larsen of the County Community Services Department.

Other officers to be installed include Ray Ferrin, first vice president; Mrs. Elizabeth Hinkley, second vice president; John Stanton, treasurer; Hanley Rogers, secretary; and B. Kenneth Gibson, manager. The board of directors include Henry G. Mathews, George Larson, James Giannioses, Linden Chandler, Jim Becker, M. Kaye Pedersen, and G. L. Mobley.

The Rev. James Burnett, president of the Lomita-Harbor City Ministerial Assn., will give the invocation and benediction.

The chamber now has about 100 members and 32 organizations as honorary members. The group hopes to build this to 200 by the year's end.

## Two Accused In Rape Case

Torrance police arrested a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old Tuesday after they were identified as suspects involved in raping a 13-year-old Wilmington girl.

The girl made the identification of the two suspects who were booked on suspicion of statutory rape.

According to her story, the two youths forced her into their car and drove to Pennsylvania Ave. and 227th St. where the crime was committed.

## Local Library Plans Change in Saturday Hours

A change in Saturday hours at the Torrance branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library, 1345 Post Ave., to become effective this Saturday, was announced by Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, regional librarian for the Torrance area.

Saturday hours will be continuous from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The change, which provides more forenoon hours, reduces evening hours, was made in response to public demand, Mrs. Jamieson said.



**DIMES MONEY . . .** Bank Teller Maudean O'Dell checks in funds collected by the Mothers' March on Polio as it is delivered by Mrs. Clara Conner, city chairman for the March of Dimes, and her assistant, Ray Wyatt. The mothers collected \$9418.63 during their Tuesday night campaign. (Herald Photo)

## Vote of Confidence Given City Boards

A vote of confidence for the members of all city commissions and boards was approved by the city council this week following discussion of a formal resolution of the parks and recreation commission protesting the discord in appointment of members.

The motion to give a vote of confidence to the boards started out as a vote for the parks commission but was enlarged to include all commissions on the insistence of Robert Jahn.

In their resolution concerning the appointments, the parks commission asked the council to approve appointments only on the basis of the nominee's qualification—not on disagreements over procedure.

Councilmen Nick Dralle and

Wilys Blount have voted no on the nominations of a number of board members—stating each time they were doing so as a protest against the practice of Mayor Albert Isen of naming all members without consulting his fellow councilmen.

Isen read the portion of the ordinances pertaining to appointment of board members during the discussions Tuesday, which, with one exception, say the members shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council.

He pointed out that he had always had approval of a majority of the council—with Victor Benstead and Robert Jahn joining him each time.

## STAFF COMMITTEES AT LOCAL HOSPITAL NAMED

Dr. Gerald M. Eastham has been appointed chairman of the surgical committee of the Torrance Memorial Hospital for 1958.

Other committee chairmen include Dr. John A. Chapman, surgical evaluation committee; Dr. William Johnson, obstetrics; Dr. Clifford E. Easley, orthopedics; Dr. Gordon W. Grace, medicine; Dr. Paul Winn, anesthesia, and Dr. William C. Casey, tissues.

Dr. Philip Halloran, medical

## Car Full of Passengers In Accident

A car carrying a driver and nine passengers crashed into another auto Sunday at 230th St. and Ladeene Ave. None of the 10 was injured.

Alice Hannemann, 18, of 22819 Madrona Ave., told officers she was on her way home from church with the nine passengers. In attempting to turn the corner, she made a wide sweep and the two cars collided head-on.

The other driver was Glen Edward Craig, 31, of 22626 Marjorie Ave. A passenger in his car, Mari Lou Craig, 27, of the same address, was taken to a private physician for treatment of a bumped shin bone.

The accident occurred at the intersection of 230th St. and Ladeene Ave. on Sunday afternoon.



**MYSTERY NOTE . . .** Torrance Officer Don Hartel studies a note which sent police on a futile search through the diacite mines south of the city Monday. The note, which Palos Verdes police said was attached to the collar of a dog, read, "Send help my leg is broken at the diacalike mines." Finding no victim, police concluded the note was a juvenile prank. (Herald Photo)